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22 July 1960

MEMORANDUM FOR : Acting Deputy Director (Plans) 25X1A2g
THROUGH : Acting Chief, Development Projects Division, DD/P 5WA
SUBJECT : Status of CIA Personnel Staffing, Project [REDACTED] 25X1A2g
REFERENCE : A. Proposed Field Organization Chart for Project [REDACTED]
B. Memorandum for Chief, DFD/CPS from Chief, DD/P-TSD, dated 14 June 1960, Subject: Proposed Transfer of [REDACTED] Field Operation to [REDACTED] (DFD 5502-60)

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1. At the request of the Acting Chief, DFD, I have looked further into the present question of which of several Agency offices should supply the single CIA senior staff employee to represent our interests in the deployment phase of Project [REDACTED] tentatively scheduled to begin in early October. I believe it might be useful to summarize these thoughts and findings in modified staff study form. Accordingly, a recommendation for solution of the problem will be found in the concluding paragraph of this memorandum.

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2. PROBLEM:

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Project [REDACTED] will deploy to the foreign field beginning about 1 October 1960 as a joint enterprise between CIA and [REDACTED]. Total complement of the field unit is 17 contractor field service representatives, 5 [REDACTED] and 1 CIA staff employee, for a total of 23 people. The Agency representative will be deputy to the [REDACTED] commanding the unit, and will function as team leader and technical director for the Project.

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The problem deals with which Agency component will furnish the team leader. At present, all concerned components have expressed their unwillingness to furnish the required individual: TSD, OSI, DFD, and the Office of Communications.

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3. FACTS BEARING ON THE PROBLEM:

a. It is agreed between TSD, OSI, and IFD that a competent technical individual must be assigned to head the field team if CIA is to expect worthwhile benefits from the Project. Both TSD and OSI state that it is not their role in CIA to staff and operate overseas technical installations. IFD as a division does not possess the necessary technical personnel, but must borrow from technical components of the Agency to staff any overseas installations for which it is responsible. The Office of Communications does not feel this type of equipment [redacted] falls within its Agency mission, and in addition, that office is hard-pressed for personnel against current JARC requirements. It should be noted that until roughly 1 May 1960 OSI had agreed to furnish the required technical director overseas. However, when it was firmly established that the post was to be PCS on a no dependents basis, the only available OSI candidate withdrew.

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b. The [redacted] equipment was developed jointly by OSI and TSD, with the latter office supplying most of the technical personnel who case-officered the equipment from the idea stage through prototype and into production at [redacted]. Until the Deputy Director (Plans) asked that IFD interest itself in the deployment stage, no one in this division had heard much of Agency activity in this area, though the basic scientific principles were known to us.

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c. IFD participation to date has concerned itself with budgeting for costs in the overseas phase for FTSI and FTSB, for carrying the ball on obtaining political permission from the host government through the Agency Chief of Station, for making an on-site technical survey of real estate proposed, for conducting liaison with the Department of State incident to political approvals there and in the host country, for making preliminary administrative arrangements with [redacted] including agreement on local cover. The Communications Section, Operations Branch, IFD has, to a certain extent, monitored [redacted] technically, but strictly from the sidelines to date.

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d. IFD has no experience in this particular field; TSD does have, and if time permitted, the Office of Communications could presumably recruit and train an electronics engineer for the job, though it would take some time to get his competence to the level already possessed in TSD.

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e. [redacted] all logistics support for the enterprise will be supplied by that service, which

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will also furnish required liaison and records keeping personnel in the office of the [REDACTED] in the U. S. Embassy. Agency field support will in all likelihood be limited to some assistance in obtaining bachelor housing (no dependents are authorized for this exercise) locally and to providing station communications links with Headquarters as required. While it would thus appear that we could turn the whole problem over to [REDACTED] merely assuring ourselves of proper access to the Project task, it should be noted that the host government regards [REDACTED] as a [REDACTED] effort, that political approval to enter the country was obtained from the highest levels there on that basis, and that concurrence of the U. S. Ambassador there was obtained with the understanding that CIA would participate actively throughout. There is also some feeling, principally in OSI, that Agency interests are best assured by the presence of a senior Agency technical type in a position of influence.

4. DISCUSSION:

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- a. It should be noted that in the event [REDACTED] is an unqualified success technically, its principles would, in all likelihood, be embodied in [REDACTED] and the actual operation of such a network would be some distance beyond the purview of EPB and/or CIA. Thus it does not appear feasible to attempt to develop within either the Agency as a whole or EPB exclusively, a corps of engineers trained in this specialized field. There is also no evidence that other projects utilizing the [REDACTED] set of principles but with different objectives will emerge within the foreseeable future. 25X1A2g

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- b. If the present impasse on [REDACTED] contains within it the seeds of the larger question: "Should EPB become the overseas technical operating division for DD/P?" a basic policy decision will have to be made wherein appropriate specialists will either be detailed to EPB for overseas duty under our control, or where, if their skills are not represented in CIA, they will be recruited under EPB aegis and assigned here under a separate Career Service identity.

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5. CONCLUSIONS:

- a. At this late date it appears unwise for political reasons to suggest that presently budgeted Agency funds be simply transferred to [REDACTED] for administration and that CIA assure itself only access to the final Project product.

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b. The investment of a single Agency staff officer is a reasonable personnel levy on CIA, when considered in the light of [REDACTED] participation in the overseas phase at a greater level, both in personnel and funds.

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c. Since IFD has actively arranged for the administrative and political phases of [REDACTED] deployment, it should continue as the focal point for future Agency concern with this Project.

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d. At present, IFD should not attempt to recruit the [REDACTED] team leader on its own. He should come from another Agency component or be recruited by that component and assigned to IFD for duty.

6. ACTION RECOMMENDED:

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a. It is recommended that Technical Services Division select and assign to IFD a professional CIA staff officer to serve under IFD as the overseas to fill the position of technical director and team leader of the Project [REDACTED] enterprise. IFD will be responsible for providing the personnel slot for this individual, who would not be charged to TED ceiling strength during his tour with IFD. The selection of TED as the source for this individual is predicated on their intimate and lengthy association with the particular sophisticated equipment employed in [REDACTED] and their resulting experience level in this field, both theoretical and practical--an asset enjoyed by none of the other offices concerned.

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b. If for any reason it is decided by the Deputy Director (Plans) that TED cannot supply the team leader as recommended above, it is suggested that the levy fall on the Office of Communications, utilizing the identical administrative arrangement proposed for TED. Should it be necessary, Office of Communications should be directed to carry out selection and recruitment of the required staff employee, in accordance with criteria to be concurred in by TED and OSI.

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STEWART

[REDACTED]
Assistant Chief, IFD-ED/P

Attachments 2

- A. Organization Chart
- B. IFD 5502 (Original Only)

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Recommendation in paragraph 6 APPROVED:

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Acting Deputy Director
(Plans)

8/10/60

Date

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